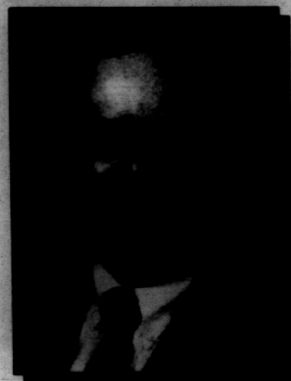
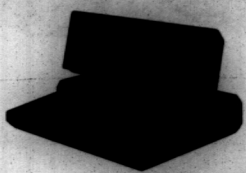


Wills

Sunday School lessons

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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See for yourself

The 2001 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) will be held June 12-13 in the Superdome in New Orleans. Seldom will Mississippi Baptists be presented with a better — or more convenient — opportunity to view the workings of the larger body of believers with which we have chosen to voluntarily cooperate in fulfilling our Lord's Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20).

Like the secular culture that surrounds us, much has changed about the SBC in the past 20 years. Some Baptists like the changes; some Baptists don't like the changes.

Talk with one person, and you'll get the idea that the SBC has never been in better shape. Talk with another person, and you may presume that the SBC is no longer even Baptist. It's difficult to tune in a clear picture.

That's the problem with trying to discern reality over long distances, relying on other people's perceptions of what's going right and what's going wrong.

As the battle for control of the SBC raged over the past two decades, there was plenty of innuendo flying around and not enough hard facts. Deflated attendance and inflated egos at the SBC annual meetings have seemed at times to

reduce the debate over the direction of the convention to a roiling *roux* of accusations, "he said/I said" pronouncements, and disinformation from all sides.

Through the years, laypeople became so confused from the infighting and battered by all the stories they were hearing that they began to refer to the internecine battle every year at the annual meeting as the "preachers' fight" — an insult to the majority of preachers who aren't fighting and a poor reflection on the few preachers who are fighting.

Like it or not, no matter on which side of the family feud one has declared, that has become the perception in many pews around Mississippi and has led to a general indifference about the workings of the convention.

Thus attendance continues to decline each year at the SBC, even when the annual meeting is held in cities like Houston, Dallas, Atlanta, and New Orleans, where there are literally hundreds of thousands of Southern Baptists within a day's drive.

That's a shame, because the annual meeting — like the SBC organization itself — is about more than political maneuvering and control.

The annual meeting is also about celebrating what God has done through Southern Baptists, and it's about making sure God gets all the glory for what he has done through us.

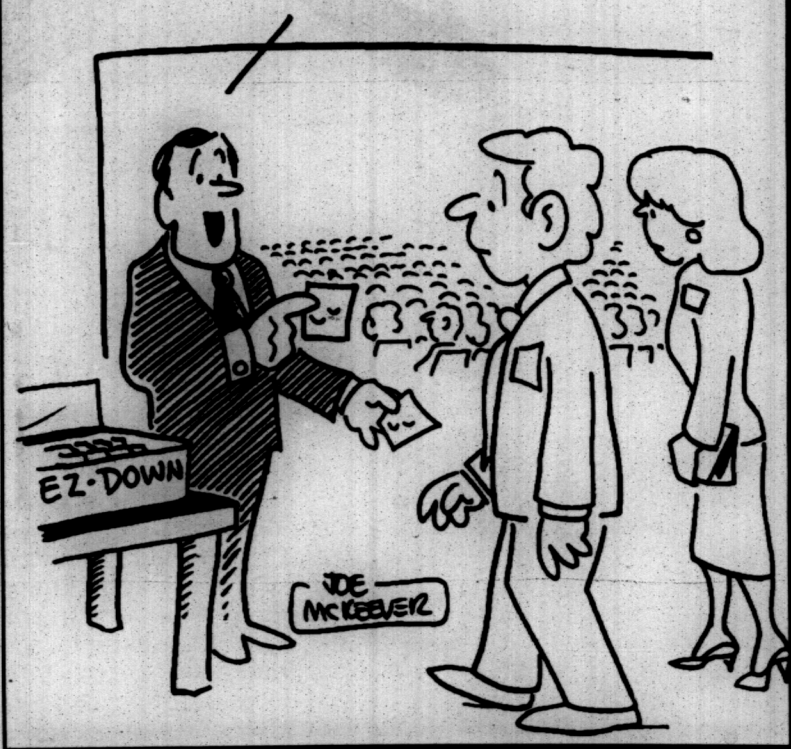
It's about attending the moving missions agency reports, where we learn of both the triumphs and heartbreaks of the previous year's Kingdom work around the world and here at home.

It's about praying for and offering encouragement to the thousands upon thousands of missionaries in the U.S. and abroad who have given up everything to take the Gospel to the people who need to hear it, often at great personal risk. Many of them will be at the annual meeting.

It's about connecting with God and seeking his will in our lives. It's about taking up our crosses and following the Savior.

It's about all of that, and much more. Sure, the convention politicians will be at work but we shouldn't allow them to deter us from the greater meaning of this momentous gathering: to worship God as Father and Jesus Christ as Savior, and to

"THEY'RE TRANQUILIZERS....
TAKE THEM JUST PRIOR TO
THE RESOLUTIONS REPORT—
HAVE A HAPPY CONVENTION!"



pledge ourselves to the completion of the great task left to us by Jesus.

You won't know about all of this — you won't be able to shape your perception of what really goes on at the SBC — unless you see for yourself. The annual meeting next week in our sister state offers all of us that opportunity.

Talk with your pastor about attending, and about how you can represent your church as a messenger. Don't be a part of the infamous "chattering class" that talks a lot but never really gets around to accomplishing anything. Instead be an active part of what's going on in our exciting Baptist world.

See you in New Orleans!

What do you do when you face a shortfall in your budget? Should the pastor proclaim from the pulpit a full dose of tithing? Should he pounce on the people about sacrifice? Should he demand they do better?

I can remember times when I have done all of the above, and with little results.

Of course the pastor should preach on tithing. However, this should be a regular emphasis. He should make this as much a part of his preaching schedule as evangelism or discipleship sermons.

Stewardship should be constant and not a shot in the arm only when the budget drops below expected receipts. When you keep the idea of giving before the people and remind them this not a legal matter but that tithing is an opportunity to partner with God, you have better results.

When we lie, we are never more like the devil, the father of all lies. Well, we are never more like God than when we give. The first thing we learned about God back in Vacation Bible School was that God is a giver.

GUEST OPINION:



*During summer,
jump don't slump!*

By Jerry W. Mixon, director
Stewardship Department
Miss. Baptist Convention Board

Remember, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son..." (John 3:16). Pastors need to remind their congregations that it is an honor to partner with God in our church, state, and even beyond through mission giving.

This kind of emphasis will help keep a church out of the budget shortfall.

However, all of us have experienced those lazy days of summer when people take vacations, visit family and friends, and in general miss church more than usual. They also miss giving their tithes and offerings.

It's not that most of them intend not to give, but it is more often than not that they

forget. Let me suggest a very simple way to jumpstart giving this summer — and when used every three or four months, it can help keep your budget on level.

It's called Silent Summer Stewardship Month. No kidding.

There is a way you can have a low-key stewardship emphasis in your church without ever saying a word about it.

Let me suggest that you begin by placing posters all over your church. Put reminders on bulletin boards, in hallways and stairwells, over water coolers, in Sunday School rooms, and even in the "summer rooms" (you know, some are for men and some are for women).

Place posters everywhere to urge each person to be faithful in giving. Write articles each week for your mailout or use articles written by others.

Follow this with bulletin inserts for each Sunday of the month. Have tracts available in the foyer and other places where they may be picked up and read.

To recap, you will have used posters, articles in the mailout, bulletin inserts, and special tracts to remind everyone of their responsibility to support the work of the Kingdom. I promise you, a silent witness will bring results.

Pray it, weigh it, and they will say it: "I will turn the summer slump into a summer jump by having a Silent Summer Stewardship emphasis."

Editor's note: Materials are available through the Stewardship Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3348 or toll free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 348. E-mail: jmixon@mbcb.org.

New international missionaries appointed

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — "I've heard the beautiful sound of angels singing," said missionary candidate Marie Zimmerman (name changed for security reasons).

She said angels sang after her own salvation experience, after she led a girl to Christ at camp, and many times when she served as a journeyman missionary in the harvest field of Ukraine.

"Not long ago I had the chance to hike through the mountains of Southeast Asia, and I listened for the sound of angels singing," Zimmerman said, "but I heard silence."

Zimmerman, a native of Roper, N.C., was one of the 53 missionary candidates sharing their missions call at Grove Avenue Church in Richmond, Va., May 22.

Under the loving gaze of a massive stained-glass Christ, praise music and a parade of international flags opened the International Mission Board missionary (IMB) appointment service.

"These are your missionaries," IMB President Jerry Rankin said after attendees stood to applaud the candidates. "We're doing this on behalf of you and your churches."

The group comprised a variety of ages, vocations, and ethnic backgrounds, including one deaf candidate.

Kaori James, a native of Maebashi, Japan, plans to serve



THAT ALL MAY HEAR — Missionary Vesta Sauter interprets for the deaf during a May 22 International Mission Board missionary appointment service at Grove Avenue Church in Richmond. Among the 53 new missionaries appointed were another country. Steven and Kaori James, who will serve among deaf people in the Czech Republic. (Photo by Sandy King)

among the deaf in Czech Republic with her husband Steven and son Andrew.

When her deaf brother became a Christian and shared the truth about Jesus Christ with her, James said she listened.

Four years later, she gave her heart to Christ. Not long after, she heard another Japanese Christian give a presentation on missions.

"She said more missionary work was needed because there were too many lost souls around the world," James recalled. "It scared me because I thought it would be impossible due to my deafness."

"I went home and prayed to seek God's will. After a prayer, I then looked at a map of the world hanging on a wall..."

"God told me in my heart that he wanted to send me to where I

would someday work for him. I was shocked by realizing it was God's call for my life. It was America."

Three years later, James met a deaf American, Steven, who was in Japan on a missions trip.

"When I got married to that man, I realized it was God's plan for me to marry him so I would be a missionary with my husband," she said.

Steven James had the same questions about serving as a deaf missionary, but he "realized that God had called me to work with deaf people in another country."

"I felt burdened in my heart that many deaf people around the world need Christ for salvation," he said.

Rankin, in his charge to the missionaries, encouraged candidates to "be the incarnational witness that influences and

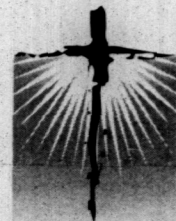
builds lives out of the reality of a living Savior" so that others might believe.

"Why did Christ say to go?" Rankin asked. "Because the most effective witness is to live your life among the lost. As you live out your faith, they can see the reality of your faith and your witness."

Rankin recalled situations where normal, daily stress brought out negative reactions in even the most seasoned of missionaries.

"When you think that the next person who answers the door I knock on might be that fruit vendor or that taxi driver, it changes things," he added. "You have a lot of backgrounds here tonight — businessmen, doctors, dentists, teachers. You're going to use these skills."

"That's not all. The real purpose of going is to exhibit in your conduct and behavior the reality of Christ."



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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ON MISSION — International missionary D. Ray Davis (seated, right) and his daughter, Emily (standing, right), chat with Namon Carruthers, son of Kelly and Ann Carruthers, after an International Mission Board missionary appointment service May 22 at Grove Avenue Church in Richmond. (Photo by Sandy King)

Looking back

10 years ago

The first congressional roll-call vote on abortion in 1991 proves a victory for advocates. The U.S. House of Representatives voted May 22 to require the country's armed services medical facilities overseas to provide abortion on demand when the client pays for the procedure.

20 years ago

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter says he has no ambition to eventually become president of the Southern Baptist Convention. "I don't have any real concern about what is going on in the Southern Baptist Convention as a threat to our denomination," he says in a Baptist Press interview.

50 years ago

Mississippi Baptists took a definite forward step in the field of temperance activities when they recently threw their full support behind the United Dry Association of Mississippi, according to Chester L. Quarles, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Abortion ads denounced

WASHINGTON (BP) — As abortion rights advocates prepare to run a six-month ad campaign promoting mifepristone — the abortion pill also known as RU-486 — pro-life activists realize there is little they can do but remind women what the ads won't tell them, according to a report in CNSNews.com. The problem, they say, is that the print ads in *Cosmopolitan*, *People*, and *Vanity Fair*, among other magazines, won't include details of the drug's potential side effects. "This is extremely irresponsible to be promoting this dangerous drug without even warning women there are some consequences attached to it," said Wendy Wright, director of communications for Concerned Women for America, in an interview with CNSNews.com. The National Abortion Foundation (NAF), a professional group of abortion providers, is funding the \$2-million ad campaign, which it hopes will reach more than 70% of women between 18 and 49 during its July-to-November run. Since the organization isn't tied to the pill's manufacturer, it doesn't have to follow Food and Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines requiring disclosure of the drug's side effects. While they may not be illegal, such ad practices are misleading, pro-life supporters say. "The sad thing for women is they won't get all the facts," said Heather Cirino, a spokeswoman for the Family Research Council. "They're led into believing it's a quick fix. It's not something that just makes your baby disappear. The baby passes through you, a potentially very traumatic experience, and that's something the abortion lobby doesn't come clean with for women," she said.

Supremes nix Ten Command- ments review

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to review a lower court decision that the display of the Ten Commandments on government property is unconstitutional. The high court's May 29 announcement left standing a federal appeals court ruling that a granite monument engraved with the Ten Commandments and located on public property in Elkhart, Ind., violated the First Amendment's prohibition on government establishment of religion. The monument was financed by a local service organization and has stood on the site in Elkhart since 1958. In an uncommon move, three Supreme Court justices joined in a written dissent, explaining they wanted to accept the appeal from the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Four justices must agree in order to review a decision.

Work started on new BSU facility at NWCC

By Nancy Patterson
NWCC BSU

The long-awaited groundbreaking ceremony for the new Baptist Student Union (BSU) at Northwest Mississippi Community College (NWCC) in Senatobia was held May 2 on a 200-by-210-foot parcel of land donated to the organization in 1988 by Virginia Wilson Searight and her family.

The new building will be located across from Howard Coliseum on Northwest Drive. The structure will be 60 by 100 feet and will include a meeting room with a 200-person seating capacity and kitchen; two offices and copy room; game room; restrooms; conference room/library; and large living area.

Construction of the building will be done by Wright Steel of Clarksdale.

"The organization provides a comfortable place for students to come and meet other students and participate in campus activities like intramural sports, as well as to become

involved in Bible study, fellowships, singing, drama, local and international mission projects, and outreach programs," said NWCC BSU Director Frank Porter.

Last year the NWCC BSU served approximately 160 students, according to Porter. BSU programs around the state work as an arm of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"Every year our numbers go up, and we expect that to increase next year when we get the new facility," he said.

At the groundbreaking ceremony, Porter welcomed guests from the college and the community. These included NWCC students, administrators, faculty members, local pastors, and businessmen.

NWCC sophomore Erik Brewer, BSU president for 2000-01, delivered the invocation.

The speech of dedication was given by Bob Maddux, pastor of First Church, Coldwater, and chairman of the NWCC BSU Advisory Board.

Jerry Merriman, MBCB director of collegiate ministry, led the prayer of dedication.

The foundation and shell of the building should be completed by Aug. 1.

Completion of the building depends upon the availability of finances and volunteer labor, noted Porter.

Those interested in helping in the completion of this project may contact the BSU at (662) 562-6168, or send mail to P.O. Box DD, Senatobia, MS 38668.



BSU DEDICATION — Turning the earth at groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Baptist Student Union (BSU) facility at Northwest Community College (NWCC) in Senatobia are (from left) contractor Bob Wright of Wright Steel in Clarksdale, BSU President Erik Brewer of Water Valley, NWCC President David Haraway, and Roberta Wilson Mayfield of Senatobia. The new facility will be located across from Howard Coliseum on Northwest Drive. (Photo by Nancy Patterson)

Study: homosexuals more likely to molest kids

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — A social researcher who has studied sexual behavior for 24 years believes the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has sound reasons for maintaining its prohibition against gay scoutmasters.

A homosexual cannot automatically be considered a child molester, said Judith Reisman, president of the Institute for Media Education in suburban Louisville, Ky. — but with 17-24% of boys being

abused by age 18, nearly as many as the 25% of girls, there is cause for concern, she said.

Since heterosexuals outnumber the homosexual population about 44-1, as a group the incidence of homosexuals molesting children is up to 40 times greater than heterosexuals, she said.

"You're looking at a much higher rate of abuse," said Reisman, a former university research professor who recently completed a study titled, *Crafting Gay Children*.

"The Department of Justice just released data and the rates of abuse are off the charts."

BSA's policy has been the subject of constant attacks from gay activists, who have convinced a number of school boards to oust the Scouts from board property.

In a story that aired Apr. 1 on CBS, "60 Minutes" also questioned its validity.

After California congressman Dana Rohrabacher called the prohibition common sense, reporter Lesley Stahl remarked that common sense turns out to be a myth.

According to the FBI and several clinical studies published in reputable journals, gay men aren't more likely to sexually abuse boys, she said.

"In fact, the largest database of child molesters in the country shows that those who molest boys are over three times more likely to be heterosexual in their adult relationships than homosexual," she said.

Reisman points to figures from a 1991 population study by the U.S. Dept. of Commerce.

It showed that 8 million girls were abused by age 18 by heterosexual men, a ratio of 1 victim to 11 adult men. However, 6-8 million boys were abused by age 18 by 1-2 million adult homosexuals, a ratio of 3-5 victims for every gay adult.

Questioned about Reisman's claims, CBS stuck by its story.

Spokesman Kevin Tedesco said "60 Minutes" staffers spoke with leading sources of information on child molestation, including the FBI, American Psychological Association, and several clinical researchers.

The database was assembled by psychologist Gene Able, director of the Behavioral Sciences Institute in Atlanta, he added.

However, Reisman also cites a past study by Able to bolster her contention that BSA has reason to fear admitting homosexuals to the scoutmaster ranks.

It found that 150 boys are abused by one male homosexual offender, compared to 19.8 girls by heterosexual offenders.

In a study published in 1987 in the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, Able said homosexuals sexually molest young boys with an incidence five times greater than the molestation of girls.

Calls to Able seeking further comment were not returned.

"We looked at the leading gay travel guide," Reisman said of her research. "Forty-seven percent of the 139 nations they talked about identified places to find boys."

"The average heterosexual travel guide is not concerned with finding children."

Crime statistics also pose concerns. Figures released last summer by the Justice Department reveal that adults are not the primary victims of sexual assault, she said, noting that 67% of all reported sex abuse victims are children and 64% of forcible sodomy victims are boys under 12.

Two analysts with Washington-based, pro-family organizations agree that homosexuals pose a greater risk to boys.

Tim Dailey of the Family Research Council questioned "60 Minutes" claim that adults who molest boys can even be called heterosexual.

"I guess you determine someone's sexual orientation by their relationships," said Dailey, who wrote a paper on pedophilia in the fall of 1999.

"If a man is married and has sexual relations with boys, he's obviously a combination. To say he's heterosexual is an outrage. Overall he's a pedophile. Whether you call it omni-sexual or pan-sexual, he's indiscriminate... in relationships."

"Who cares if a guy is married?" echoed Peter LaBarbera, senior policy analyst for the Culture and Policy Institute, a division of Concerned Women of America.

"If he's into molesting boys, that's homosexual behavior. It's academic nonsense to talk about these people as heterosexuals," he pointed out.

Sign seen by 20,000 daily



David McGuffie (left), pastor of Highland Church, Natchez, and Adams associational missions director Dale Little stand before an 8 foot x 24 foot billboard facing the Highway 61 bypass in Natchez. The billboard, passed by 20,000 vehicles daily, is on land owned by Highland Church. Little said the vinyl signs cost between \$400 and \$600. Money from the Associational Missions Response Fund, administered by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, helped pay for the sign project. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

IMB worker Olson dies in northern Africa

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Lisa Varnado Olson, a representative of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) in northern Africa and a former Southaven teacher, died May 31.

Olson, 34, had been hospitalized the morning of May 30 after two days of flu-like illness. Medical tests failed to reveal the cause of her symptoms. She died the next evening while plans were being made for a medical evacuation.

Olson and her husband, Dan, have four children: Philip, 8, Paul, 6, Mary, 2, and Julia, 1. They began their service with the International Mission Board in 1996.

"We're all very grieved over Lisa's tragic death," said Madelyn Edens, an associate director for IMB work in northern Africa. "Lisa was a wonderful wife and mother whose passion was first for Christ. She had a deep love for the people to whom God had called her and faced any risks secure in that call."

"This sort of tragedy reminds us we must not neglect to pray for our repre-

sentatives as they serve in places where health and safety can't be taken for granted," Edens said.

"We especially want to ask people to pray for her husband, Dan, and for their four young children."

"This is a tremendous blow, and they will need God's grace to cope with their loss."

Randy Sprinkle, IMB director of international prayer strategies, echoed the importance of prayer at a time like this.

"Please intercede for her husband, Dan, and their children, as well as the families," Sprinkle said.

"Pray for God's great fatherly care and comfort for them, and also ask him

to cause this heart-rending situation to result in the accelerated spread of

Christ's kingdom of love among the unreached people group whom Lisa loved so much and for whom she gave her life."

Born in Austin, Texas, Olson considered Albuquerque, N.M., her hometown.

She was a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Prior to service with the IMB, she taught French at Southaven High School in northwest Mississippi and worked as a flight attendant with Continental Airlines.

Her husband was singles minister at Brookside Church in Memphis, and associate pastor of Kennewick (Wash.) Church.

She was the daughter of Samuel and Mary Varnado of Albuquerque.



Olson

THE HEART OF A CHAMPION

It was at the end of a 10-hour Atlantic flight returning from Ukraine that I landed at O'Hara Airport in Chicago and made a call to my office at the Baptist Building in Jackson.

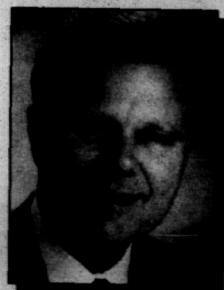
I then learned that David Wills, director of the Sunday School Department for Mississippi Baptists, had died.

Although we knew things had not been going well in his treatment for leukemia, we all wanted to hold to hope. It wasn't that we were holding to a false hope as we all were praying, for we serve a great God of miracles and impossible reversals. Besides that, we were all affected and infected by David's optimistic and uplifting attitude.

On the flight home, while imprisoned in my seat, I read a newly published Broadman Holman book, *Heart of a Champion*. The descriptive subtitle states, "Profiles in Character."

I was holding this book as I heard about David.

As I dialed the phone trying to call Kathy, David's life companion, I sat staring at the cover of the book. The book is filled with inspirational stories of athletes and those connected



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

with athletics. Some are well-known and some probably most of us have never heard of, but all excelled in courage, dedication, and faith.

With book in hand, I sat and thought of David Wills. So much of what I had just read over the past hours, I had seen lived out in him:

• **Champions are noted more for their excellence of achievement than for their length of career.**

David was a young man, only 39 years of age, but in short order he had touched individuals, churches, and our state convention as he made his mark as a gifted, caring servant of Jesus.

I am convinced that the most common measurement of a life or a ministry is chronology, but it may not be anywhere near the best measurement.

Champions may not be on the field a long time, but we are all blessed because they were there.

• **Champions are people who don't just play the game — they give their all.**

Over the past months, as David battled leukemia, he did so always with his mind on his job. It was almost impossible to get him to focus on his need because he was always focused on his work.

Even when he did give attention to the disease that had attacked him and he was unable to come to work, his mind and his heart were still on the things of the Lord.

He was always connected with work either by the phone or his computer.

Like a true champion, David excelled even in the face of adversity. Probably one of the greatest tests of a man's effectiveness is not how good he is when things are good, but how good he is when things are bad.

David Wills continued to be at his best even when things were at their worst.

• **Life's true champions are people of faith.**

I'm not speaking of a faith just, "to keep on going," but a faith in the Creator, the Redeemer — a faith in him and his plans, purposes, and provisions.

It is a faith that strengthens you. It is a faith that gets you up, moves your heart, carries you along, and keeps you going. It is a faith that changes lives — your own and those around you.

For David Wills, it was an unflinching faith in Jesus, our Lord. It was Jesus who made him, saved him, called him, shaped him, and who now lovingly holds him!

Clark Kellogg, the author of *Heart of a Champion*, wrote, "The heart of a champion is not just about what you've won, or what you've done. It's an attitude — a way of life. It's how you live and what you stand for. It's the foundation for your whole life and existence. The heart of a champion is not just something you have, it's something you are."

David Wills had the heart of a champion and was the heart of a champion.

Our prayers and love will continue to be with his wife Kathy and their son Stephen, who every step of the way were team members whose hearts were as strong and as big and heroic as David's was.

David has finished the course and now they, and we, will continue running the race the Lord has set before us.

Prayer warriors needed for special trip

A total of 48 Mississippi Baptist prayer warriors are needed to go on mission in Central Asia, Oct. 5-15. According to Clay Moss, strategy consultant for the Partnership Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, the team will conduct prayer walks and gain a vision of a prominent Muslim people group which has not yet been reached with the gospel. "Due to the sensitivity of our work in this particular region, we are not able to divulge too much information publicly," said Moss. "However, the trip is available to those seriously interested in being a part of this mission endeavor." Moss said he expects the volunteers to get a clearer vision of how to pray for this people group and how to reach them with the Gospel. Total cost of the trip is \$1,250, which will include round-trip airfare, lodging, and food. "If the Lord leads you toward this mission, please contact the Partnership Missions Department," said Moss. The department address is P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Telephone: (601) 292-3398 or toll free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 398. E-mail: vfairley@mbcb.org.

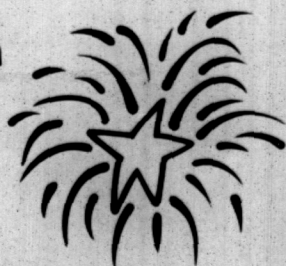
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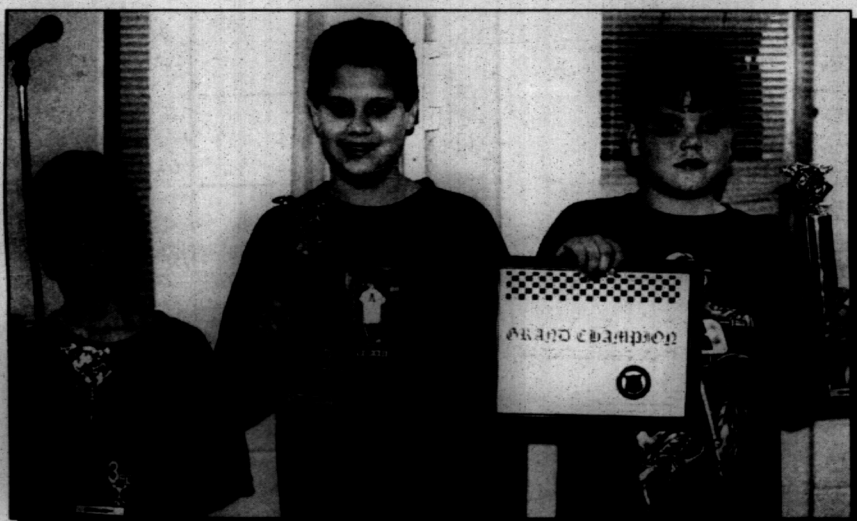
JUST FOR THE RECORD



McCormick, Smithey, and Akers

First Church, Pontotoc, recently held RA race car derby. Winners pictured are Lads (from left) are Griffin McCormick, 3rd place; Jake Smithey, 2nd place; and Dylan Akers, 1st place.

Crusaders (from left) are Collin Burchfield, 3rd place; Logan Chamblee, 2nd place; and Justin Moss, 1st place and also grand prize winner.



Burchfield, Chamblee, and Moss

Longview Church, Starkville, will present the Reed Brothers Band in an outdoor concert on June 10 at 5 p.m. Steve Huber is pastor.

Lebanon Church, Benton-Tippah Association, will have dedication services and homecoming on July 22 at 11 a.m. Steven Essary is pastor.

First Church, Leland, has given its pastor, Jon Doler, sabbatical leave for the summer. He has served as pastor for 13 years and will return to the pulpit Sunday, Sept. 2. Guest speakers for the summer will be Harold Bryson, Jimmy Porter, Michael Johnson, and David Michel.

Antioch Church, Rankin County, had an Old Fashion Day on May 6. Crossgates mission team to Senegal presented an informative program on May 9. Several members from Antioch will be leaving as part of a mission team to the Northwest. David Waits is pastor.

Bob McIntyre, Leo Bourlet, and Rusty Bird, pastor of Salem Church, Raymond, left May 27 for a mission trip to Hays, Kansas, to help build a church.

Jones County Baptist Association held its dedication/open house on Sunday, April 29. The new office building has approximately 4,000 square feet of floor space, which includes a conference room and four offices. It was built by local contractor, Ronnie Hill, who is a member of Sandersville Church. T. Allan Nix is the associational missions director.



RAs of Osyka Church, Osyka

RAs of Osyka Church, Osyka, built and delivered bluebird houses to their adopted grandfathers. This is one of many of the mission action projects they have performed throughout the year towards achieving a grade level badge. Their leader is Suzarine Cutrer. Milton Kliesch is pastor. Pictured (from left) are Johnathan Freeman, Luke Rhodus, Tyler Cutrer, A. J. Freeman, Major Gill, and Sawyer Ott.



Henry with GAs of First Southern Baptist Church of Pearlinton

GAs of First Southern Baptist Church of Pearlinton presented the church with a piggy bank totaling \$70 for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering on April 22. The group also collected stuffed animals for the Hancock County Sheriff's office to be used to comfort children involved in emergencies. Pictured with the GAs is Merrick Henry, pastor.

HOMEcomings

Philadelphia, Caseyville: June 10; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., worship, 10:45 a.m.; covered dish luncheon in fellowship hall; Malcolm Massey, guest speaker.

Hebron Church, Grenada: June 24; speakers will be Buford Usry and Bernard Nail; Jimmy Hood, music; Hebron Church will honor its three oldest members.

Parkhill, Jackson: June 10; 45th anniversary; 11 a.m. service followed by covered dish luncheon; Tommy Clark, speaker; Jim Young, music; Gary A. White, pastor.

Laurel Hill (Neshoba): June 10; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch will be served; 1:30 p.m. service; Murphy Thompson, guest speaker; Dan Blake, pastor.

*Morrison Heights Baptist Church
cordially invites
its members, friends, and
the Clinton Community
to a reception honoring
Hal Kitchings
upon his graduation from
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
with a Doctor of Ministry degree*

*Sunday, June 10, 2001
3 to 5 p.m.*

*Morrison Heights Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall*

Morrison Heights
Baptist Church
A Family of Hope

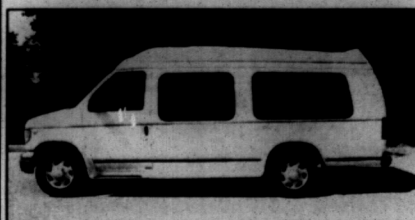
201 Morrison Drive ♦ Clinton MS 39056 ♦ 601.924.5620

Palm Vista Baptist Church is seeking an experienced full-time SBC Senior Pastor for a multi-generational congregation, in a rapidly growing community. Please send resumes by July 14, 2001 to:

PVBC-Search Committee,
17475 W. Bell Road,
Surprise, Arizona 85374.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 7, 2001

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Office of Communication.

Midwest Women's Conference

Jefferson City, Missouri
August 16-18

Registration Deadline: July 10

Cost: \$235 per person

A WMU regional training event, featuring:
Wanda Lee, executive director, WMU, SBC
Esther Burroughs, noted author & speaker
Gwen Williams, worship leader
Missionaries
Nine conference sessions

Midwest Conference Registration

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Phone: (home) _____ (w) _____
Church: _____
Association: _____

- Package includes transportation, 4 nights lodging, program fee and conference meals. (Travel meals are on your own.)
- Total cost due at registration. Deadline to register, July 10.
- Substitutions may be made at any time. No refunds after July 24.
- Make checks payable to MBCB (designate for Windermere Women's Conference) and mail with registration form to Mississippi WMU, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.
- Contact Miss. WMU office for more information, in Jackson, 292-3316, or 1-800-748-1651 or E-mail: tanderson@mbcb.org.

Travel Schedule: Depart from Garaywa, Aug. 15; Conference, Aug. 16-17; Depart from Windermere, spend night in route to Mississippi, Aug. 18; Arrive at Garaywa, Aug. 19.

2001 Family Week

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, July 2-6, 2001

Conferences:

- Preschool / Children's TeamKIDS
- Mini-Centrifuge with Mickey and Alice Little, Mobile
- Couples - Ronnie and Beverly Cottingham, Lucedale
- Single Parenting James Hayes, FBC, Biloxi
- Transformational Hearts Eugene Dobbs, Philadelphia, Miss.

Special Events:

- BBQ cookout
- Whole "free" day
- Crafts, clowning workshops
- Ice cream and watermelon fellowship
- Night swimming

Special Guests:

- His Praise Ensemble, Vicksburg
- Hilton Family Singers
- Joseph Harris, magician



Hilton Family Singers

For every three paying families, spouse of church or association leader gets in free

For more information contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800

Registration For Family Week

Name of Adults _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Children's names/birthdays _____

Church _____
Association _____

Mail to: Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571 (Visa and MasterCard are accepted.) For more info call 228-452-7261. Make checks payable to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. (Note: no skateboards or roller-blades)

Deposit: \$40 per person or \$80 per family

COST PER PERSON - ROOM/MEALS/RESERVATIONS

"A" Unit

Adults (12 years and up)\$165.40 each
Child (2-11 years old)\$82.45 each
Under 2 years old\$4.00 each

"C" Unit

Adults (18 years and up)\$150.20 each
Youth (12 years-12th grade)\$80.50 each
Child (2-11 years old)\$46.25 each
Under 2 years old\$4.00 each

Walking and Talking with the Father

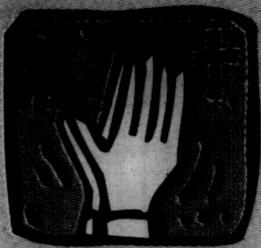


We are in need of 48 Mississippi Southern Baptist prayer warriors to go on mission to central Asia October 5-15, 2001. Our team will prayer walk and get a vision of a prominent Muslim people group which has not yet been reached with the gospel.

The total cost of the trip will be \$1,250 which will include round-trip airfare from Jackson and in country costs.

If the Lord leads you toward this mission, please contact the Partnership Missions office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.
Phone: 601-968-3800 / Fax: 601-292-3390





Let us help your church plan a
**"God Is Good
 Sunday."**

Determine specific needs and use this program to organize a special offering Sunday to meet those needs.

There is no cost to your church for this program.

The Stewardship Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board provides:

- An organizational plan and format
- Promotional bulletin inserts
- Offering envelopes
- A lay speaker
- Speaker's travel expenses and a love gift

Your church:

- Determines the purpose for the offering
- Sets the date
- Promotes
- Executes the activities of the day

For more information please call the Stewardship Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at
 601-292-3347 or 1-800-748-1651.

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night 2001

Mississippi Coliseum, Jackson
 Friday, July 27, 6:30-9:00 p.m.



Rick Ousley
 Speaker



Michael John
 Clement
 Worship Leader

GUIDELINES

- Encourage your youth group to bring a group of friends.
- Encourage each person to bring a friend.
- Appointed leaders: 5 per group.
- No alcohol or beverages. Tobacco is permitted.
- No smoking or chewing gum.
- No cell phones or pagers.

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night's purpose is to provide the youth of Mississippi the opportunity to gather for a contemporary worship celebration led by creative communicators of the gospel resulting in edifying believers and reaching others for Christ.

*Come
 Worship*

Plan Now to Bring Your Church Youth Group

Pastor Wife and Retreat

August 10-11, 2001
 Gulfshore Baptist Assembly



Leaders: L.B. and Nancy Jordan, Arkadelphia, Ark. L.B. is retired director of Church-Minister Relations, Arkansas Baptist Convention.

Music/Worship Leader: Eric McNair, minister of music, McLaurin Heights Baptist Church, Pearl

Purpose: To provide a time of encouragement, inspiration and fellowship for pastors and wives.

Reservation and Registration:

- Participation is limited to the first hundred (100) couples that register for this retreat. This number is based on the available private accommodations at Gulfshore.
- You may use the 2001 Gulfshore Baptist Assembly Information brochure's registration form or register using the form below.

Cost Per Person: Adults, \$44.50 Children ages 12 & up, \$24.75 Children ages 2-11, \$13.63 Children under 2, \$1
 Full scholarships for pastors are available, but each will be responsible for the cost of his wife and/or children. Please indicate choice on the registration form below.

Childcare: Supervised care will be made available for preschoolers, children and youth.

Pastor & Wife Retreat Registration • August 10-11, 2001

Name _____ Church _____

Address _____ city _____ state _____ zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Please indicate the type of accommodations needed: ☐ Couple only ☐ Couple with children

Total number in family _____ Ages of children _____ Scholarship for pastors only: ☐ yes ☐ no

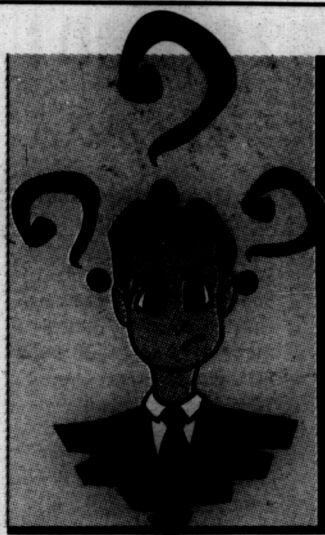
Please mail or fax to: Frank Simmons, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

Phone: 228-452-7261 Fax: 228-452-7263

Please include a deposit of \$40 per person and \$80 per family. MasterCard and Visa are accepted.

Sponsored by: Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, Matt Buckles, director

For more info: Call the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department at 1-800-748-1651 or 1-601-292-3305.



Ever had this thought?
"If I could just do a few things to
make my Sunday School better..."
Then Super Saturday is for you!

Super Saturday

We can all benefit from a few really good ideas.

Sunday School's Ten Best Practices will help any Sunday School worker, in any size church, to get a grasp of what Sunday School could, and should, be.

The Mississippi Baptist Sunday School Department, in cooperation with LifeWay Christian Resources, is pleased to offer three regional Super Saturday events to train all Sunday School leadership, Sunday School directors, as well as all pastors and staff members to make the best of their Sunday School.

CHOOSE FROM ONE OF THREE CONVENIENT LOCATIONS:

Saturday, August 25, 9 a.m.-noon

- First Baptist Church, Grenada
- Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

Saturday, September 8, 9 a.m.-noon

- Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church, Meridian

Cost: \$2 per person, which covers all conference materials as well as a copy of the book, "Beyond the Walls: Ten Best Practices."

Conference leaders will be special Sunday School equippers from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board as well as LifeWay Conference leaders.

Leadership Conferences Offered For:

Younger Preschool	Older Preschool
Younger Children	Middle Children
Older Children	Younger Youth
Older Youth	Young Adults
Median Adults	Senior Adults
General Officers	Pastor/Staff

Pre-Registration Form

Pre-registration deadline is August 1, 2001.

Super Saturday
Sunday School Department

Mark which location you will attend:

☐ Grenada ☐ Meridian ☐ Hattiesburg

Individual Registration

Name _____ Daytime Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Church Registration

Church Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Contact Person _____

Contact Person's Daytime Phone _____

Total Reservations _____

Complete this section for both individual registration and church registration.

Place the number of people you will have attending in each blank in front of the age group conference they will attend.

____ Younger Preschool	____ Older Preschool
____ Younger Children	____ Middle Children
____ Older Children	____ Younger Youth
____ Older Youth	____ Young Adults
____ Median Adults	____ Senior Adults
____ General Officers	____ Pastor/Staff
____ Total number to attend from my church.	

Cost is \$2 per person, which covers all conference materials as well as a copy of the book, "Beyond the Walls: Ten Best Practices."

Check for \$ _____ (\$2 per person) made out to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is enclosed with my pre-registration form.

Complete and mail by August 1 to:
 Sunday School Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Growing Churches Conference



"Equipping Church Leaders for the 21st Century"



THIS HOPE

Growing Churches Through Discipleship

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
July 26-28

Featuring seminars on total church growth with an emphasis on Discipleship and Family Ministry.

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 Discipleship and Family Ministry Department
 MBCB
 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 (in Jackson)

Pray this day for...

June 8 - 21, 2001

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

*No time to pray? Maybe you can do like Jesus did -
"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed."*
Mark 1:35

Pray for V. in Chile who fell a few weeks ago and could not attend their weekly Bible study. A missionary visited her on the following Friday. Her mother and sister were there. What began as a simple home visit turned into a Bible study! Pray for their salvation.

For: (1) Father's Day; (2) Praise God for the volunteer construction team visiting the island of Seram, Indonesia, where they built 50 quadplex houses for families displaced by ethnic cleansing. Their willingness to share their lives left a lasting impression.

For: (1) GA Summer Camp, 11th - 15th (WMU); (2) Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp, 11th - 15th (MM); (3) Please pray that representatives working among the Buryats of Russia will receive their visas quickly. Many have had problems with delays.

For: (1) Royal Ambassador/Challenger Camp, 18th-22nd, Central Hills Retreat (MM); (2) VI Youth Conference, 18th - 22nd, Gulfshore Assembly (MBCB); (3) GA Summer Camp, 18th - 22nd, Camp Garaywa (WMU).

For: (1) The Southern Baptist Convention which meets the 12th-13th in New Orleans, La.; (2) Pray for "storying" (chronological Bible telling) method of evangelism to be a breakthrough to the Olori Yoruba of Nigeria and Benin who are up to 85% illiterate.

For: (1) Cultural Awareness, North Delta Assn. Center, Clarksdale (SM); (2) Marisa Sanchez is a migrant ministries director from Va. Pray God will continue to provide funding and a missions minister. Pray for her husband to hear God for his own calling.

Many additional long-term workers are needed to address the tremendous spiritual needs of China, the world's most populous country. Pray that many Christians will feel the call to pray, give, and/or go to China as long-term missionaries.

Journeyman David Baamonde, English-language youth ministry in Paris, recently conducted a survey to find out how the young people perceive his church's youth group. David was encouraged by the results. Pray for the youth to participate more.

For: (1) V Youth Conference, 14th-18th (MBCB); (2) Pray for Casey Fitzsimons, resort missionary in Myrtle Beach, S.C., as he heads up the Intra Coastal Outreach, including organizing the missionaries and youth groups who serve in this popular area.

Pray that Satan will be bound and unable to hinder the spread of the gospel in Dodoma, Tanzania. Many Christian groups are sharing the gospel, but hundreds of thousands are resistant to making it their own.

Pray for President Bush and the government of the United States as our two main political parties struggle for a majority in the Senate. Pray that only bills in accordance with God's will and the best for our country will be approved. Pray that evil will be overcome with good.

For: (1) New Church Start Update, Gulfport (SM); (2) IV Youth Conference, Gulfshore Assembly (MBCB); (3) Pray for Southern Baptists' campaign called "Crossover," June 8-10, the WMU Convention and the Pastor's Conference, June 11-12 in New Orleans.

Dr. Harold Finch recently spoke to a group of 600 students in Buenos Aires. Officials interrupted and announced that students were under-aged and not permitted to make a spiritual decision without parental consent. Pray for the students' salvation.

Pray that the Thailand Baptist Seminary in Bangkok will have more students of the same caliber as the nine who graduated in March. They are now traveling in Thailand during a year of internship, planting new churches and strengthening existing ones.

COMING MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

2001 MUSIC LEADERSHIP - JULY 12-14



Preschool: Derry Billingsley, First Baptist Church, Edgefield, S.C.



Younger Children: Marcia Card, Vineville Baptist Church, Macon, Ga.



Older Children: Virginia Dickert, Music Specialist, Jacksonville, Fla.

Register through: Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571, (228) 452-7261

Preschool/Children Leadership Clinic

Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson, August 17-18

\$5 per person
No pre-registration required

6-9:30 p.m., Friday
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Saturday

Preschool: John Paul Moccia
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.



Younger Children: Don Odom
Florida Baptist Theological College
Graceville, Fla.



Older Children: Martha Kirkland
LifeWay Christian Resources
Nashville, Tenn.



Grades 1-6
Donna Goodman
Lakeside BC
Rogers, Ark.



Children's Choir Coordinators
Mary Ann Tyler
FBC, Roswell, Ga.

2001 Young Musicians' Camps

(for children who have finished the 4th, 5th or 6th grades by June 1)

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

June 26-30

Cost: \$136.50

Register through Gulfshore Baptist Assembly



Eileen Straw - Director
Roswell United Methodist Church
Atlanta, Ga.

Blue Mountain College

July 23-27

Cost: \$100

Register through the Church Music Department

Jim Gill - Director

Church Music and Worship Department Director
South Carolina Baptist Convention, Columbia, S.C.



For more information on any of these camps, call the Church Music Department, 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3271

HOUSE TOPS

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Harry (Buddy) Barnes, 72, retired minister, died May 5 at the VA Home in Jackson. Services were held at First Church, Madison, May 7. Barnes was born in Benton and lived in Madison for the past six years. He was a graduate of the University of Mobile and New Orleans Seminary. He retired from First Church, Oak Grove, La., and served churches in Lucedale, Picayune, Brookhaven, and retired from the full-time pastorate in October 1990. He also served for seven years as associate pastor at Trace Ridge Church, Ridgeland, and one year at Springhill Church, Hazlehurst, retiring again in 1998. Survivors include his wife Theda; daughters, Cindy Watson of Salem, Ore.; Donna Odom of Mobile,

Ala.; and Kathleen Rayborn of Pearl; six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Corey Vermilyea was licensed to preach by West Laurel Church, Jones Association. He attends Jones County Junior College, Ellisville. Pictured (from left) are Cary Worthington, pastor; and Vermilyea.



Worthington and Vermilyea

Terry L. Long, former pastor of Riverside Church, Jackson Association; Goodyear Church, Pearl River Association; and North Winona Church, Montgomery Association; has entered into the ministry of evangelism. Long is a graduate of William Carey College, New Orleans Seminary, and Southern Baptist Center for Biblical Studies in Jacksonville, Fla. He is available for pulpits, supply, revivals, retreats, conferences, and one-day crusades. For further information, contact Long at Truth in Love Ministries, 12904 Oak Court, Wilmer, AL 36587, or call (334) 645-4948, or e-mail at TerryLong12000@yahoo.com. Jones is pastor.



Mary Beth and Lacie Golson

Mary Beth (left) and Lacie Golson, members of Hope Church, West Point, are pictured with trophies received for three years of participation in Children's Bible Drill. Avery Jones is pastor.



First Church, Days, licensed James G. (Jim) Moore to the gospel ministry. He is a student at Union University, Jackson, Tenn. Pictured (from left) are W.L. Gardner; Mae Moore; Moore; Danny Berryhill, pastor; and Robert F. Poley.

Scholarship awarded



The Anna Lynn Osborne Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Leanna Virginia Rogers at graduation ceremonies on May 10 at New Summit School, Jackson. This scholarship fund was established with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation in memory of Anna Lynn, daughter of John and Nell Osborne. The income of this fund is used to provide a scholarship to a young lady who best exemplifies the spirit of Anna Lynn Osborne. Rogers is a member of Highland Colony Church, Hattiesburg, and is the daughter of Randy and Debbie Rogers.

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YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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Benton, AR 72018-1302 Fax 501-316-3110

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BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Revival dates

Barnes Crossing Church, Saltillo: July 8-13; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; J. V. Davis Jr., Jackson, Tennessee, evangelist; Harrell Hill, Barnes Crossing Church, music; J. D. Johnson, pastor.

Poplar Springs, Newton: June 17-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Carroll Roberson, Ripley, evangelist; Marion Felton, Newton, music; Charles Bonner, pastor.

Revival results

Beulah (Union): three-day tent revival at a local mobile home park in Myrtle; four people were saved and one re-dedicated his life to Christ; Ken White, pastor.



Wilbanks, Gunn, Hardon, Haynes, and Quinn

Blue Mountain College (BMC) dedicated its 2001 Mountain Breeze to Imogene Hardon, BMC's Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year. Pictured (from left) are Shanna Wilbanks, assistant editor; Andrea Gunn, editor; Hardon; Rena Haynes, author of the dedication; and Anna Quinn, faculty advisor.

Commencement ceremonies closing the 175th academic session at Mississippi College (MC) were held May 12 in Robinson-Hale Stadium on the Clinton campus. Degrees were conferred by Mississippi College President Howell W. Todd (left) on 560 candidates. Thad Cochran (second from left), Mississippi's senior U.S. senator, gave the commencement address. The invocation was presented by

Howard L. Huey (second from right), minister of music at Grace Church, Rosemark, Tenn. The benediction was given by Phillip A. Newton (right), senior pastor at South Woods Church, Memphis. The 2001 recipient of the D.M. Nelson Award was Laura Ellen Brewer, daughter of Eddie and Sandra Brewer of Arlington, Tenn. Brewer graduated with a major in psychology and maintained a 4.0 grade point average (GPA). The recipient of the 2001 Sadler Scholarship Award was Kenneth Gabe Goza, son of Kenny and Vickie Goza of Brookhaven. Goza, a communication major, graduated with a bachelor of science degree and maintained a 4.0 GPA at both Copenhaver-Lincoln Community College and at Mississippi College.



Todd, Cochran, Huey, and Newton

Mississippi College (MC) associate professor of education Tom Williams of Madison has been named the Distinguished Professor of the Year. Past recognitions have been Mississippi Teacher of the Year in 1982; Mississippi Tennis Coach of the year in 1976; and Outstanding Young Educator in the Jackson area in 1977. Williams served as principal of Callaway High School, Chastain Junior High School, and Murrah High School, all in Jackson. He joined the MC faculty in the school of education's department of teacher education in 1992. Williams is married to Mary Mixon Williams and is the father of five children and two grandchildren.



Williams

Joe Garvin has been named head softball coach at William Carey College (WCC). He is currently serving as director of student support services at WCC. His coaching experience includes stops at Purvis High School, Oak Grove High School, Perry Central High School, University High School in Baton Rouge, La., and Belhaven College, in addition to a stint in teaching at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM). Garvin will also serve as an instructor in health, physical education, and recreation at Carey. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees and doctoral study from USM.

Dot Jackson (left), Mountaineer Advisor at Blue Mountain College, presents a copy of the 2001 Mountaineer to Dean William Washburn. The 2001 Mountaineer was dedicated to Washburn during a recent chapel service.



Jackson and Washburn

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STAFF CHANGES

First Church, Pontotoc, has called **Lewis Harrell** as minister of evangelism/discipleship, effective May 15. A native of Jackson, Harrell received his education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. His previously place of service was First Church, Indianola.

Bethel Church, Monticello, has called **David Caves**, as minister of students and outreach, effective June 1. A native of Monticello, Caves goes to Bethel Church from First Church, Headland, Ala., where he served from 1997-2001 as minister of students and outreach. Prior to entering student work, Caves served as pastor to churches in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. He is a graduate of Copley-Lincoln Community College, Delta State University, and New Orleans Seminary.



Caves

James "Stuart" Givens has accepted the position as pastor of **Sylvarena Church, Wesson**, effective May 1. Givens is a graduate of Mississippi College with additional course work at New Orleans Seminary.



Givens

Victor R. Vaughn Sr., pastor of Oak Grove Church, Scott County for 28 years, has retired. Vaughn and his wife Joyce were honored on May 27 with a fellowship meal, a program, and reception later in the afternoon.

First Church, Biloxi, welcomed **Walter Nelson "Chip" Stevens** as pastor and **Ashley Austin** as minister to students, effective Jan. 1. **Wayne Pinkerton** joined the staff as minister of education/administration, Feb. 16. Stevens, a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary, joined the staff on July 1, 1996, as minister to students. In August 1999, he became associate pastor and was called as pastor effective January 2001. Austin, a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary first joined the staff as part-time minister to students. He became full-time minister to students effective January. Pinkerton, a graduate of Mississippi State University joined the staff as minister of

education/administration on Feb. 16. He was formerly on staff with First Church, Greenville. Pictured (from left) are Pinkerton, Stevens, and Austin.



Pinkerton, Stevens, and Austin

FAITH clinic offered in Mississippi

Following the successful FAITH Training Clinics held all across the nation to assist churches in evangelizing their communities, LifeWay Christian Resources has announced an additional 2001 clinic for churches in Mississippi.

On June 19-21, 2001 there will be an additional FAITH Training Clinic at the Ephesus Church in Forest.

This clinic is for pastors and church leaders who are interested in implementing the FAITH Sunday School Evangelism strategy in their church.

Clinics in or near Mississippi scheduled for 2002 include:

January 15-17, 2002
Colonial Heights Ch., Jackson

March 19-21, 2002
Skyland Blvd. Church,
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

April 18-20, 2002
First Church, Saltillo

May 21-23, 2002
New Orleans Seminary
New Orleans

September 17-19, 2002
First Church, Gulfport

For more information about the FAITH evangelism strategy, contact the Sunday School Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3291 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 291. E-mail: cday@mbcb.org

For registration for any FAITH clinic including the clinic at Ephesus Church, Forest, contact LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville at (800) 254-2022, or for general FAITH information from LifeWay, call (877) 324-8498.

AAEO goal exceeded

First Church, Terry, exceeded its goal of \$5,000 for the Annie Armstrong Offering by giving a final total of \$5,140. John H. Pace Jr. is pastor.

SWBTS honors retirees

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Gratitude for the privilege of helping young people prepare for ministry was a common sentiment expressed during a May 8 chapel honoring seven faculty members retiring from Southwestern Seminary (SWBTS) in Fort Worth.

The retirees, who served a combined 208 years, include William B. Tolar, C.W. Brister, Hazel Morris, C.L. Bass, Jerry Privette, Scotty Gray, and Lawrence Klempnauer.

Each retiree was honored with a slideshow and presented a commemorative clock by SWBTS President Kenneth S. Hemphill.

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SEEKING: DYNAMIC, GROWING, Southern Baptist Church in northern Kentucky is seeking a full-time minister of adult education. Strong organizational and management skills and a desire to be a part of a strong ministry team are required. Please send resume to: Florence Baptist Church, P.O. Box 456, Florence, KY 41022-0456, ATTN: Karen Byrd or email to: tmjohnson@fuse.net

PART-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR, Harrison County. Send resume to: Search Committee, Robinwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 580, Saucier, MS 39574.

PART-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR for Deerfield Church, P.O. Box 973, Madison, MS 39130; (601) 856-5959 or fax: (601) 898-1874.

PART-TIME YOUTH/MUSIC MINISTER in Neshoba County. Send resumes to Beatline Baptist Church, Search Committee, 12345 Road 505, Philadelphia, MS 39350. Daytime (601) 656-3653, leave message.

GREATER VISION CONCERT

June 17, 2001 ♦ 7:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church — Columbia, MS

Tickets:

Adults — \$12

Children 6 to 12 — \$5

Groups of 20 or more — \$10 a person

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Signs of the end

Mark 13:1-37

By Kathy Mord Alford

Herod the Great, politician extraordinaire, was known in the ancient Roman world as an ingenious visionary. As Jesus and his disciples worshiped at Herod's restored Temple, unsurpassed in splendor, the disciples commented on the beauty of what he had called his Father's house, perhaps thinking they were praising God. Yet Jesus revealed to them that the Temple, made by human hands, would be destroyed.

In Mark's gospel, four of the disciples asked Jesus for a sign "that these things would be fulfilled." Matthew includes their asking for the sign of Jesus' [second] coming and of the end of the age as well. In answering, Jesus warned them, "Watch out that no one deceives you."

This was the first of six emphatic warnings throughout his discourse in Mark 13 to "watch out, be on your guard, take heed, be alert." His command implies intent, earnest contemplation, as opposed to thoughtlessness and disregard of God's Word. To take heed is to constantly give attention to one's moral and spiritual life. "Many will come in My name," Jesus warned, "and will deceive many."

Most of his disciples had recognized Jesus as the Son of God, the Messiah, and in so doing, attributed to him the character of God the Father. In naming the name of Jesus, one was to belong to him and to represent him.

This admonition of false Messiahs and false prophets is repeated in Mark 13:22, where



Alford

Jesus warns his disciples that deceivers can and will perform signs and wonders. While a sign appeals to the understanding, a wonder appeals to the imagination. Oddly, our English word terror is derived from the Greek word for wonder, *teras*.

Jesus saw the tendency for the nondiscerning to believe that all signs and wonders were God's activity, for he stressed repeatedly that these miracles could also be used by Satan through human instruments. Hebrews 2:4 points out that the signs and wonders performed by Jesus were confirmed by God, so we can say in faith that Jesus' miracles were signs validating Jesus as God's spokesman and evidence of divine authority.

How can we recognize these pseudo-prophets/teachers? Author Larry Richards, in *Every Miracle and Wonder in the Bible*, cites three tests setting forth principles to distinguish God's authentic spokesmen from false teachers:

- (1) a theological test: 1 John 4:3;
- (2) a lifestyle test of false teachers: Jude 3, 4, 12, 16, 19 and 2 Peter 2:10, 15; of Christian leaders: 1 Tim.3:1-9 and Titus 1:5-9;
- (3) a discernment test: 1 Cor. 14:29.

Furthermore, those who falsely claim to speak in behalf of God care only for self and, like Satan, can transform themselves into angels of light. A true prophet seeks to glorify God the Father, not obscure him. Deceivers or those who seduce, as some translations read, are those who deliberately mislead morally and spiritually. Some fifty messianic pretenders have been recorded in the last two thousand years of Jewish history.

The signs the disciples asked for are described in Mark 13:7-27. Some have been fulfilled, some are signs of all earthly time, and others are signs of our present era.

They have been scrutinized by Bible scholars throughout the ages, and, though numerous theories abound as to if

and when they have been fulfilled, the question of one prophecy is indisputable to all: No one knows when Jesus Christ will return in clouds with great power and glory as he promised and when our time on this earth as we know it will end.

Useless conjectures are contrary to the command our Master gave us as his servants in charging us our assigned tasks, as his concluding parables illustrate. In *Know What You Believe*, Paul Little points out that "neither our Lord nor the prophets and apostles mention the return of Christ for speculative purposes, but always as a motive for practical daily holiness."

Remembering Jesus' warning to be prepared, we must not be busy with the routine of life as Noah's neighbors were before the flood, so that the end catches us by surprise. Keep watch; take heed — this world will come to an end. When it does, will you be awake or asleep?

Alford is a member of First Church, McComb.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Accept responsibility

Amos 3:1-15

By Harold Simmons

America is in love with watching courtroom drama. It could be Judge Whapner or any other television judge's courtroom. In the third chapter of Amos, God is holding court and presenting evidence against all who disobey him. He, in his mercy, demonstrates that he is ready to receive contrite hearts.

The fair judge (vv. 1-2). One of the first things a lawyer wants to know when entering a trial is who is the judge. They want a fair judge and so does everyone who is being judged.

God is the fair judge. He is righteous and he is just. He gives fair warning of his judgements upon mankind. In this portion of Amos, he

makes it very clear by having Amos say to the people, "hear this word." The word used for "hear" indicates that they and we are to hear with the intention of obeying. This means there is opportunity for the hearers to repent of their life of sin.

The Lord is a fair judge because he judges as a father does for his children. The message is "against" or on behalf of "the whole family." We would rather someone in the family give us judgement than someone who does not know us.

There is an intimacy that displays the tenderness of the judge regardless of the judgement being passed. God has the purpose of correcting his wayward children toward maturity to



Simmons

accomplish his redemptive purposes and to turn them back to the right way.

The fairness of the charge (vv. 3-8). God is trying to correct the lifestyle of his covenant people through his judgement. He does not use hearsay as evidence against them.

In verses 3-6 Amos asks a series of questions that are to be answered in the negative. The inference is that God does not bring charges against his people unless there is a reason. He has revealed what he expects of his people and it is against that revelation that he judges.

God's chosen people have been given privileges and also responsibility. We will be judged against our living responsibly as his chosen and being a blessing to all nations as were the people of Amos' day.

Verse 7 points out that God does nothing in secret. He reveals his plans through his spokesmen. The prophets were

forth-tellers of God's plans for fair judgement.

"Who can but prophesy?" points out the prophet's responsibility to speak what God had revealed. Jeremiah said the message God had given him was like a "fire shut up in my bones."

The message is so important that the prophet (God's spokesman) must deliver it to the intended hearers. The prophet is compelled to speak because God wants to bring his people to repentance. The judgement will come on those who do not change.

The fullness of the judgement (vv. 11-15). The unrepentant can look for sure judgement and it will be complete in its scope. Verses 11-15 tell of the destruction of government, false religion, and homes.

An enemy will overrun the countryside. The strong cities will be "pulled down." The treasures will be plundered. The country will be defenseless and will have no monetary way to operate or trade with other countries. In other words, the

government would be powerless — useless.

Another part of their culture would also crumble. The altars of Bethel with the security of the horns of the altar will be destroyed. The people could turn to the false religion only to find there was nothing left of what they had been erroneously worshipping.

The base of any society is the home. This too will fall into heaps of rubble as though a devastating earthquake had hit. This rounds out the picture of the hopeless state of those who are under the judgement.

There is nothing left; or is there? Yes. Verse 12 points to a remnant of a slain sheep that is saved. The shepherd was to save something to prove he had not stolen or sold the sheep.

Israel would not be as it once was but God would save a remnant to prove that he was true to his promises. The remnant would be those who repented and lived in covenant with God.

Simmons is pastor of Hebron Church, Grenada.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news items and photographs of special events and activities of participating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

For publication in The Baptist Record, news items should be either (a) typewritten on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (b) typed on a computer using a standard 12-point font. All articles should be double-spaced with one-inch margins. No articles should be submitted by e-mail or by telephone.

Articles should be submitted electronically to the editor at editor@baptistrecord.org. Please include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the article, and a contact person's address and telephone number.



No text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not acceptable. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via e-mail. Photos should be three and a half inch by five and a half inch. Photos must be clearly labeled with the name of the person or event being photographed.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbc.org.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Ronny E. Robinson, Executive Director

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Texas board okays shift in funding

DALLAS (BP) — Messengers to the annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) will consider an executive board recommendation to withhold \$1.28 million in funding typically sent in Cooperative Program (CP) contributions to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) from member churches.

Board members on May 22 unanimously approved the recommendation of the BGCT's Missions-Sending Agencies Study Committee to retain in Texas the amount of money being spent by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in the state and to renegotiate the cooperative agreement between BGCT and NAMB by the end of the year.

Committee chairman Jim Denison of Dallas said the NAMB funding recommendation "would not require any NAMB missionary in Texas to change his or her appointment status."

He added, "This is in no sense defunding, but simply administering more efficiently that portion of Texas funds which would be already returned to Texas under the agreement."

Bibliocipher

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KHJ ELKE FXTXHEKHXYX
KHJ FXZMNNMPH PV
NMHN NLPDRJ WX
TFXKYLXJ MH LMN HKZX
KZPHS KRR HKEMPHN,
WXSMHHMHS KE
QXFDNKRXXZ.

RDUX EAXHEO-VPDF:

VPFEO-NXGXH

Clue: T = P

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Five: Thirty-One.

B&H reaching out with Spanish resources

MIAMI (BP) — With a growing array of resources available in Spanish, Broadman & Holman International (B&H), a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), welcomed opportunities to talk with hundreds of distributors from Latin America, Spain, and the United States during Expolit, May 18-22 in Miami.

"We're progressing and going in the right direction," Luis Lopez, B&H field service consultant, said during Expolit, the largest Spanish expo of Christian books, Bibles, curriculum, music, gifts, and supplies. "We have more new resources than ever before."

A new Scofield study Bible, Holman Concise Bible Dictionary, and Sunday School for a New Century curriculum were premiered. Other new products included Breaking Free, In God's Presence, When God Speaks, and Jesus by Heart.

Leticia Calcada said the "Scofield in Latin America is very well known. However, the only version available in Spanish was the Scofield edition produced in the early 1900s."

Study helps in the updated version include 2,000 footnotes, 26,000 center column references, subject chain references, a topical concordance, a complete index of footnotes, an analytical chart of weights and measures, and others.

"From beginning to end, I worked on this Bible for four years," said Calcada, who did the translation of the study helps and oversaw editing and production.

Based on early response, she expects the Bible to go into a second printing during the summer.

While Sunday School for a New Century curriculum in English was introduced in the fall of 2000, the Spanish edition premieres in the fall of 2001.

Guillermo Hernandez, B&H resident consultant for Central America, saw the curriculum for the first time during a workshop preceding Expolit.

"The concept of Bible study as a family is very good," said Hernandez, who will introduce the concept to churches this summer.

He said churches in his region have responded most positively to date to Experiencing God, Making Love Last Forever, Share Jesus Without Fear, and Survival Kit for New Christians.

He hopes the impact of Bible study and discipleship resources will be spiritual and numerical growth in the churches and a "greater sense of commitment" among believers.

Cesar Badiño Garduno, resident consultant in



STAYING STOCKED — Robert Brown of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., works at keeping the Spanish products on the shelves straight and in good order. Brown works at the LifeWay Christian Store in Fort Lauderdale. (Photo by Morris Abernathy)

Mexico, said B&H International resources "transform people. They help people live by biblical principles. It is a beautiful experience for all the people to learn from the resources."

Rose Corvalho, vice president of Bompastor, a Brazilian publisher, retailer, and music distributor, said their partnership formed with LifeWay Christian Resources in 2000 is growing rapidly.

"We think LifeWay is the future for churches in Brazil," she said.

In another area, B&H International introduced a witnessing tool, "Evangelcube," in 2000. Produced by Evangelcube International, B&H has international distribution rights.

Casey See, executive vice president of Evangelcube, said the 1 millionth cube will

be distributed this year. A goal has been set to evangelize one billion people using the cube in the next 10 years.

"Evangelcube preserves the simplicity of the gospel and can be used effectively in any language," See said.

It is available in 47 countries. Tracts to use with the cube have been published in six languages and will be available in 24 more by the end of 2001.

At a luncheon for 70 distributors of B&H International resources in the United States, Latin America and Spain, the top five distributors were recognized. These included Pan de Vida, Los Angeles; Representaciones Biblias, Marathia and La Puerta de la Fe, all of Mexico; and Peniel of New York.

Eloy Tamez, manager of Alpha y Omega of Houston, received the award as the fastest-growing distributor.

Tamez said he was a distributor of Christian music until customers began asking for Bibles.

"I believe the new Scofield Bible will be well received," he noted.

B&H International resources in Spanish are now available in the United States, Spain and 17 Latin American countries.

Luis Aranguren, senior vice president of B&H International, attributed the growing acceptance and use of resources to applying the principles of the Experiencing God discipleship course.

"Before I even think of a strategy, I ask God to show me exactly where he wants us to work and what he wants us to do," Aranguren said.

